59. (New) The foam article according to claim 23, further comprising at least one polymer composition bonded to said polymer foam.

60. (New) The foam article according to claim 59, wherein the polymer composition comprises an acrylic polymer.

Remarks

Claims 27 and 28 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application.

Claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 20-26, 43, 47, 49, and 50 are amended. New claims 51-60 are added. The amendments and new claims add no new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. A marked-up version of the claims that show the changes made are submitted with this Amendment and Response.

Claims 1-26, 29-32, 34-36, 43, and 47-60 are pending.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,476,712

Claims 1-6, 9-12, 17, 20-30, 37, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,476,712 (hereinafter "US '712") issued to Hartman et al. Applicants submit that the pending claims are not obvious over US '712.

US '712 discloses a double sided tape that includes pressure-sensitive adhesive layers on opposite sides of a coextruded multilayer carrier having a core of thermoplastic elastomer containing a uniform distribution of voids and one or more skin layers formed of film-forming thermoplastic polymers. The reference provides the following disclosure about the roughness of the core at column 3, lines 14-19:

> "The skin smoothes the adjacent outer core face which may be roughened excessively by the expansion of the blowing agent. The smoothing of the core face is by a leveling of the roughness resulting from the blowing process. In this manner, the skin provides the carrier with a smooth face."

Thus, the reference discloses that the core has a rough surface. A skin layer is required to provide a smooth surface to which the adhesive layer is applied.

Claim 1 of the present invention provides that at least one major surface of the polymer foam is smooth to a Ra value less than about 75 micrometers, as measured by laser triangulation profilometry. This limitation is not taught or suggested by US '712. To the contrary, this reference repeatedly discloses that the foam core has a rough surface. A skin must be added to the core to provide a carrier with a smooth face.

Claim 1 is not obvious over US '712. For at least the same reason, dependent claims 2-6, 9-12, 17, and 20-22 are not obvious over US '712.

Independent claim 23 of the present invention provides that the polymer foam has a uniform size distribution of the at least partially expanded expandable polymeric microspheres from the major surfaces to the center of the foam. The polymer foam is prepared by expanding most, if not all, of the expandable microspheres that are to be expanded before the polymer composition exits the die. By expanding the expandable polymeric microspheres before the polymer composition exits the die, expansion occurs while the polymer composition in a melted form. Consequently, there is a uniform size distribution of the expanded polymeric microspheres from the center of the polymer foam to the outer surfaces of the polymer foam.

In contrast, US '712 teaches that substantially all of the expansion of the polymeric microspheres occurs just as the polymer begins to flow out of the opening of the die and the pressure applied to the polymer is reduced. If expansion occurs earlier in the extrusion process, the reference teaches that the outer layer surface of the multilayer carrier can be very rough. Thus, expansion of the core occurs while the carrier is cooling. The carrier cools from the outer surface inward. Thus, the microspheres towards the center of the core can expand more than the microspheres towards the outer surface of the core. The carrier does not have a uniform distribution of the expanded polymeric microspheres from the major surfaces to the center of the foam as recited in claim 23 of the present invention. Further, the shapes of the expanded polymeric microspheres are distorted, as indicated in Figure 1 of US '712, because of the competing expansion and cooling processes

Thus, claim 23 is not obvious based on the US '712. For at least the same reason, dependent claims 24-30 and 37 are not obvious over this reference.

Claim 48 of the present invention depends on independent claim 43. Claim 43 provides that the polymer foam is a blend of a pressure sensitive adhesive polymer and

a polymer selected from polyolefins, polyesters, polyamides, fluorinated polymers, polyalkylene oxides, polyvinyl alcohol, ionomers, cellulose acetate, polyacrylonitrile, polyvinyl chloride, thermoplastic polyurethanes, aromatic epoxies, polycarbonate, polydimethyl siloxane, polybutadiene, polyisoprene, polychloroprene, and ethylene-propylene-diene monomer rubber.

The polymers disclosed in US '712 do not contain a pressure sensitive adhesive. Rather, the core disclosed in US '712 is a block copolymer of thermoplastic elastomers having a structure A-B-A where A represents a non-rubbery block that is glassy or crystalline at room or service temperature and B represents a rubbery block that is elastomeric at room or service temperature. Suitable copolymers include styrene-butadiene-styrene, styrene-isoprene-styrene, and styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene. The copolymers can be blended with a polyolefin to provide variations in properties such as compressibility.

Because the polymers disclosed in US '712 do not include a pressure sensitive adhesive, this reference does not teach all the limitations of claim 43. Thus, independent claim 43 is not obvious over US '712. For at least the same reason, dependent claim 48 is not obvious based on the disclosure in this reference.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection based on obviousness over US '712.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,476,712 individually or in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,100,728

The Examiner rejected claims 7-8 and 18 as obvious over US '712 individually or in view of U.S. 5,100,728 (hereinafter "US '728") issued to Plamthotam et al. Applicants submit that the pending claims are not obvious over US '712 individually or in combination with US '728.

Claims 7-8 and 18 are dependent on claim 1. As discussed above, claim 1 is not obvious over US '712. US '712 does not teach or suggest that at least one major surface of the polymer foam that contains a plurality of thermoplastic expandable polymeric microspheres is smooth to a Ra value less than about 75 micrometers, as measured by laser triangulation profilometry. To the contrary, US '712 repeatedly discloses that the foam core has a rough surface. A skin must be added to the core to

provide a carrier with a smooth face. For at least the same reason, claims 7-8 and 18 are not obvious over this reference.

US '728 does not overcome the deficiencies of US '712. US '728 discloses a pressure sensitive adhesive tape that contains an e-beam cured pressure sensitive adhesive matrix, 10 to 20% by volume low density microspheres, and at least one pigment in an amount sufficient to color the tape. The microspheres disclosed in this reference are not expandable polymeric microspheres as recited in all of the claims of the present invention.

Further, even if the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition used in US '728 was used in place of the A-B-A block copolymer in US '712, the resulting foam would not have a smooth surface. US '712 discloses that foams having expandable polymeric microspheres are rough. US '728 provides no teaching about polymer foams with expandable polymeric microspheres. Neither reference provides a polymer foam having a plurality of thermoplastic expandable polymeric microspheres that is smooth to a Ra value less than 75 micrometers. The combination of references does not teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1. For at least the same reason, the combination of references does not teach or suggest all the limitations of dependent claims 7, 8, and 18. As such, these claims are not obvious over the combination of US '712 and US '728.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the obviousness rejections for claims 7, 8, and 18.

Rejection based on U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 5,476,712 individually or in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,415,615

The Examiner rejected claims 13-16 as obvious over US '712 individually or in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,415,615 (hereinafter "US '615") issued to Esmay et al. Applicants submit that the pending claims are not obvious over US '712 individually or in combination with US '615.

Claims 13-16 are dependent on claim 1. As discussed above, claim 1 is not obvious over US '712. That is, this reference does not teach or suggest that at least one major surface of the polymer foam that contains a plurality of thermoplastic expandable polymeric microspheres is smooth to a Ra value less than about 75 micrometers, as

measured by laser triangulation profilometry. To the contrary, US '712 repeatedly discloses that the foam core has a rough surface. A skin must be added to the core to provide a carrier with a smooth face. For at least the same reason, claims 13-16 are not obvious over this reference.

US '615 does not overcome the deficiencies of US '712. US '615 discloses a pressure sensitive adhesive having voids that do not collapse after being briefly compressed. Figure 3 discloses a reinforced pressure sensitive adhesive tape. US '615 does not disclose the use of expandable polymeric microsphere. Rather, the polymeric composition is frothed to form a polymeric foam. The polymer composition can include hollow glass microspheres.

The combination of US '712 and US '615 does not teach or suggest that at least one major surface of the polymer foam that contains a plurality of thermoplastic expandable polymeric microspheres is smooth to a Ra value less than about 75 micrometers, as measured by laser triangulation profilometry. US '712 discloses that polymer foams containing expandable polymeric microspheres are rough. US '615 provides no teaching about polymer foams with expandable polymeric microspheres.

The combination of US '712 and US '615 does not teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1. For at least the same reason, the combination of references does not teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 13-16. Therefore, these claims are not obvious over the combination of US '712 and US '615.

Rejection based on U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 5,476,712 individually or in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,024,880

The Examiner rejected claims 19, 43, 49, and 59 as obvious over US '712 individually or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,024,880 (hereinafter "US '880") issued to Veasley et al. Applicants presume that the Examiner meant to reject claim 50 rather than the stated claim 59 because there was no claim 59 in the application at the time of the Office Action. The remarks that follow are based on this presumption. Applicants submit that the pending claims are not obvious over US '712 individually or in combination with US '880.

Claim 19 is dependent on claim 1. As discussed above, claim 1 is not obvious over US '712. This reference does not teach or suggest that at least one major surface

of the polymer foam that contains a plurality of thermoplastic expandable polymeric microspheres is smooth to a Ra value less than about 75 micrometers, as measured by laser triangulation profilometry. To the contrary, US '712 repeatedly discloses that the foam core has a rough surface. A skin must be added to the core to provide a carrier with a smooth face. For at least the same reason, claim 19 is not obvious over this reference.

US '880 does not remove the deficiencies of US '712. The foams in US '880 are formed by frothing a low molecular weight syrup. The syrup is then applied to a backing. Even though the reference discloses that the syrup can contain hollow microspheres, these microspheres tend to migrate to the exposed surface of the coating layer when the syrup is applied to a backing. The resulting coating layer has an upper surface with an irregular contour.

Thus, the combination of US '880 with US '712 does not teach or suggest a polymer foam that contains a plurality of thermoplastic expandable polymeric microspheres and that is smooth. Claim 1 is not obvious over the combination of these references. For at least the same reason, dependent claim 19 is not obvious over the combination of US '880 and US '172. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 19.

Claim 43 of the present invention provides a plurality of at least partially expanded expandable polymeric microspheres and a polymer matrix comprising a blend of two or more polymers. At least one of the polymers in the blend is a pressure sensitive adhesive polymer and at least one polymer is selected from polyolefins, polyesters, polyamides, fluorinated polymers, polyalkylene oxides, polyvinyl alcohol, ionomers, cellulose acetate, polyacrylonitrile, polyvinyl chloride, thermoplastic polyurethanes, aromatic epoxies, polycarbonate, polydimethyl siloxane, polybutadiene, polyisoprene, polychloroprene, and ethylene-propylene-diene monomer rubber. Neither US '712 nor US '880 teaches or suggests such a polymer blend.

US '712 discloses a block copolymer of thermoplastic elastomers having a structure A-B-A where A represents a non-rubbery block that is glassy or crystalline at room or service temperature and B represents a rubbery block that is elastomeric at room or service temperature. Suitable copolymers include styrene-butadiene-styrene, styrene-isoprene-styrene, and styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene. The copolymers can

be blended with a polyolefin to provide variations in properties such as compressibility. The copolymers disclosed in US '712 do not include a pressure sensitive adhesive as provided in claim 19.

US '880 provides that saturated hydrocarbon elastomers can phase separate when photopolymerized in adhesives with acrylic monomers. The saturated hydrocarbon elastomers disclosed in US '880 are styrene ethylene-butylene styrene copolymers. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not a polyolefin. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not a polyester. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not a polyamide. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not a fluorinated polymer. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not a polyalkylene oxide. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not a polyvinyl alcohol. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not an ionomer. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not a cellulose acetate. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not a polyacrylonitrile. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not a polyvinyl chloride. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not a thermoplastic polyurethanes. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not an aromatic epoxy. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not a polycarbonate. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not a polydimethyl siloxane. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not a polybutadiene. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not a polyisoprene. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not a polychloroprene. A styrene-butylene-styrene copolymer is not an ethylene-propylene-diene monomer rubber.

Claim 43 is not taught or suggested in the combination of US '172 and US '880. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 43.

Claim 49 of the present invention provides a polymer foam that includes a polymer matrix that is a blend of two or more polymers. At least one of the polymers in the blend is a pressure sensitive adhesive and at least one of the polymers in the blend is an acrylate-insoluble semicrystalline polymer.

As discussed above, US '712 does not disclose a pressure sensitive adhesive. Thus, claim 49 is not obvious over US '712.

US '880 does not remove the deficiencies of US '712. US '880 discloses a saturated hydrocarbon elastomers blended with acrylic monomers. The blend can phase separate when photopolymerized. The saturated hydrocarbon elastomers disclosed in

US '880 are styrene ethylene-butylene styrene copolymers. Styrene ethylene-butylene styrene copolymers are not semicrystalline polymers. The specification of the present invention describes semicrystalline polymers on page 12, line 27 to page 13, line 2:

> "A second class of polymers useful for the polymer matrix of the foam includes acrylate-insoluble polymers. Examples include semicrystalline polymer resins such as polyolefins and polyolefin copolymers (e.g., based upon monomers having between 2 and 8 carbon atoms such as low density polyethylene, high density polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers, etc.), polyesters and co-polyesters, polyamides and co-polyamides, fluorinated homopolymers and copolymers, polyalkylene oxides (e.g., polyethylene oxide and polypropylene oxide), polyvinyl alcohol, ionomers (e.g., ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymers neutralized with base), and cellulose acetate."

Thus, neither US '172 nor US '880 teaches or suggests a polymer foam that includes a blend of a pressure sensitive adhesive and an acrylate-insoluble semicrystalline polymer. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 49.

Claim 50 of the present invention provides a polymer foam that includes a polymer matrix that is a blend of two or more polymers. At least one of the polymers in the blend is a pressure sensitive adhesive and at least one of the polymers in the blend is an acrylate-insoluble semicrystalline polymer. This claim is dependent on claim 1.

For at least the reasons discussed above regarding claim 1, claim 50 is not obvious over the combination of US '172 and US '880.

Additionally, as discussed regarding claim 49, neither US '172 nor US '880 teaches or suggests a polymer foam that includes a blend of a pressure sensitive adhesive and an acrylate-insoluble semicrystalline polymer. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 50.

Rejection based on U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 5,476,712 individually or in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,864,181

The Examiner rejected claims 31-32 and 34-36 are obvious over US '712 individually or in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,864,181 (hereinafter "US '181") issued to Wolinski et al. Applicants submit that the pending claims are not obvious.

Claims 31-32 and 34-36 are dependent on claim 23. As discussed above, claim 23 is not obvious over US '712. That is, US '712 teaches that substantially all of the expansion of the polymeric microspheres occurs just as the polymer begins to flow out of the opening of the die and the pressure applied to the polymer is reduced. If expansion occurs earlier in the extrusion process, the reference teaches that the outer layer surface of the multilayer carrier can be very rough. Expansion of the core occurs while the carrier is cooling and the carrier cools from the outer surface inward. Thus, the microspheres towards the center of the core can expand more than the microspheres towards the outer surface of the core. The core in US '712 does not have a uniform size distribution of the expanded polymeric microspheres from the major surfaces to the center of the foam as recited in claim 23 of the present invention.

US '712 does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent claim 23. Claim 23 is not obvious over US '712. For at least the same reason, dependent claims 31-32 and 34-36 are not obvious based on US '712.

The deficiencies of US '712 are not overcome by US '181. US '181 discloses articles having a composition that includes a dispersion of microspheres in a solution of a polymer. The composition is applied to a substrate and dried. The microspheres are coated onto the substrate in an unexpanded form.

The polymer foams disclosed in US '181 do not contain a homogeneous distribution of polymeric microspheres. The microspheres can migrate in the coating prior to drying and curing such that the microspheres are not uniformly distribution in the coating. If the microspheres have a higher density than the rest of the coating composition, they will tend to be concentrated at the lower surface of the coating. If the microspheres have a lower density than the rest of the coating composition, they will tend to be concentrated at the upper surface of the coating.

Further, the articles disclosed in US '181 can be heated to expand the microspheres. The heat would be supplied, most likely, to either major surface of the article. Thus, there is likely to be a temperature gradient from the surface of the article towards the center of the article. There is unlikely to be uniform expansion of the microspheres from the major surface to the center of the article.

The combination of US '181 and US '712 does not teach all the claim limitations of claim 23. As such, claim 23 is not obvious over this combination of

references. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 31-32 and 34-36 are not obvious over the combination of US '181 and US '712. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections for these claims.

Rejection based on U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 5,476,712 individually or in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,833,193

The Examiner rejected claim 47 as obvious over US '172 individually or in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,833,193 (hereinafter "US '193") issued to Sieverding. Applicants submit that the pending claims are not obvious.

Claim 47 is dependent on claim 43. As discussed above, claim 43 is not obvious over US '172. That is, claim 43 provides a polymer foam that includes a pressure sensitive adhesive. The foams disclosed in US '172 are not pressure sensitive adhesives, much less a pressure sensitive adhesive that is the reaction product of monomers that include acrylates, methacrylates, or combinations thereof. For at least the same reason, claim 47 is not obvious over US '172.

US '193 does not remove the deficiencies of US '172. US '193 discloses a pressure sensitive adhesive that can be repositioned. The pressure sensitive adhesive include a homogeneous mixture of (i) at least 20 weight percent of a low molecular weight resin produced by the polymerization and hydrogenation of styrenic monomer feedstock having a ring and ball softening point of about 10 to 45 °C; (ii) from about 2 to about 40 weight percent of a triblock copolymer with a saturated elastomeric block in the center and a thermoplastic block on each end alone or in combination with a diblock copolymer of a hard thermoplastic block, and a saturated, soft ethylene-propylene polymeric block; and (iii) up to about 80 weight percent of a mineral oil.

US '193 does not disclose a polymer foam or a foam article that includes expandable polymeric microspheres. There is no suggestion or motivation to provide a polymer foam or a foam article. The pressure sensitive adhesive in US '193 is not the reaction product of monomers that include an acrylate, methacrylate, or combination thereof. There is no suggestion or motivation to alter the composition to include such a pressure sensitive adhesive. There is no disclosure of a polymeric matrix that include such a pressure sensitive adhesive combined with at least one polymer selected from polyolefins, polyesters, polyamides, fluorinated polymers, polyalkylene oxides,

individually

polyvinyl alcohol, ionomers, cellulose acetate, polyacrylonitrile, polyvinyl chloride, thermoplastic polyurethanes, aromatic epoxies, polycarbonate, polydimethyl siloxane, polybutadiene, polyisoprene, polychloroprene, and ethylene-propylene-diene monomer rubber.

Claim 43 is not obvious over the combination of US '172 and US '193. For at least the same reasons, claim 47 is not obvious over this combination of references. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 47.

Applicants believe that all the pending claims 1-26, 29-32, 34-36, 43, and 47-60 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

April 9, 2003
Date

By: Jean A. Lown
Jean A. Lown, Reg. No.: 48,428
Telephone No.: (651) 733-3169

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833

Marked-up Version to Show Changes Made

In the claims:

Cancel claims 27 and 28. Amend claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 20-26, 43, 47, 49, and 50. Add new claims 51-60.

1. (Amended once) A foam article comprising a polymer foam, said polymer foam having [with] at least one of its major surfaces [being] smooth to an Ra value less than about 75 micrometers, as measured by laser triangulation profilometry,

said polymer foam comprising a homogeneous distribution of a plurality of thermoplastic expandable polymeric microspheres,

wherein said plurality of expandable polymeric microspheres are at least partially expanded.

2. (Amended once) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer foam has a center and a uniform size distribution of said at least partially expanded expandable polymeric microspheres from the major surfaces to the center of said polymer foam.

15. (Amended once) The foam article according to claim 1, further comprising [in combination with] a first substrate, wherein said polymer foam [article] is on a major surface of said substrate and said [combination] foam article is a multi-layer article.

16. (Amended once) The foam article according to claim 15, further comprising a second substrate having a major surface, wherein said polymer foam [article] is sandwiched between said first and second substrates.

20. (Amended once) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said foam article comprises a polymer composition bonded to said polymer foam.

21. (Amended once) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said foam article comprises a plurality of polymer compositions bonded to said polymer foam.

22. (Amended once) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said article comprises an adhesive composition bonded to at least one major surface of said polymer foam.

23. (Amended once) A foam article comprising a polymer foam, said polymer foam comprising a homogeneous distribution of a plurality of thermoplastic expandable polymeric microspheres, and said plurality of expandable polymeric microspheres being at least partially expanded, wherein said polymer foam [exhibits a machine (or longitudinal) direction and crossweb (or transverse) direction standard deviation of density or thickness over average density or thickness (σ/x), respectively, of less than about 0.2] has a center and a uniform size distribution of said at least partially expanded expandable polymeric microspheres from the major surfaces to the center of said foam.

24. (Amended once) The foam article according to claim 23, wherein said polymer foam exhibits a machine (or longitudinal) direction and crossweb (or transverse) direction standard deviation of density or thickness over average density or thickness (σ/x), respectively, of less than about 0.2 [σ/x is less than about 0.1].

25. (Amended once) The foam article according to claim [23] 24, wherein σ/x is less than about 0.05.

26. (Amended once) The foam article according to claim [23] 24, wherein σ/x is less than about [0.025] 0.1.

43. (Amended twice) A foam article comprising a polymer foam that includes:

(a) a plurality of at least partially expanded expandable polymeric microspheres, and

(b) a polymer matrix comprising a blend of two or more polymers sufficiently free of urethane crosslinks and urea crosslinks to eliminate the need for isocyanates in said polymer matrix, wherein

at least one of said polymers in said blend comprises a pressure sensitive adhesive polymer that is a reaction product of monomers comprising an acrylate, methacrylate, or combinations thereof and;

at least one of said polymers is selected from [the group consisting of unsaturated thermoplastic elastomers, acrylate monomer-insoluble saturated thermoplastic elastomers, acrylate-insoluble semicrystalline polymers, acrylate-insoluble amorphous polymers having a solubility parameter of less than 8 or greater than 11, elastomers containing ultraviolet radiation-activatable groups, and pressure sensitive and hot melt adhesives prepared from non-photopolymerizable monomers] polyolefins, polyesters, polyamides, fluorinated polymers, polyalkylene oxides, polyvinyl alcohol, ionomers, cellulose acetate, polyacrylonitrile, polyvinyl chloride, thermoplastic polyurethanes, aromatic epoxies, polycarbonate, polydimethyl siloxane, polybutadiene, polyisoprene, polychloroprene, and ethylene-propylene-diene monomer rubber.

new matter

47. (Amended once) The foam article according to claim 43, wherein the [foam] polymer matrix is capable of stretch activated release.

49. (Amended once) The foam article according to claim [43] 23, wherein said polymer foam comprises a polymer matrix comprising a blend of two or more polymers wherein at least one of said polymers in said blend comprises [the] a pressure sensitive adhesive and at least one of said polymers is an acrylate-insoluble semicrystalline polymer[s].

50. (Amended once) The foam article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer foam comprises a polymer matrix comprising a blend of two or more

polymers wherein at least one of said polymers in said blend comprises a pressure sensitive adhesive polymer and at least one of said polymers is an acrylate-insoluble semicrystalline polymer.